

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 14547 011244Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 ACDA-07 DODE-00 EB-08 /061 W
-----018055 020107Z /12

R 011130Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8948

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14547

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS
SUBJ: FURTHER COMPLAINT ON UNDERWATER EXPLOSIVES IN ALEXANDRIA

REF: (A) ALEXANDRIA 0943, (B) USDAO CAIRO 14064 (241510Z AUG 77)

1. AM DISTURBED HEAR OF LATEST INCIDENT INVOLVING USE OF
UNDERWATER EXPLOSIVES BY EGYPTIAN NAVY NEAR AMERICAN VESSEL
SS JAMES AS REPORTED REFTEL A. THIS TYPE OF THING IS
ANNOYING AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS, THOUGH I THINK WE HAVE
TO BEAR IN MIND THAT IT HAS BEEN DONE IN ALEXANDRIA PORT
REGULARLY SINCE 1941 RPT 1941 AND PERHAPS EVEN EARLIER.

2. AS YOU KNOW, DATT RAISED GENERAL SUBJECT WITH DMI
M/G SHAWKAT LAST WEEK. SHAWKAT'S RESPONSE, WHILE SOMEWHAT
EQUIVOCAL, GAVE AT LEAST SOME HOPE THAT HE WOULD TAKE
APPROPRIATE ACTION (REFTEL B). HE HAS OBVIOUSLY NOT YET
DONE SO. WHEN DATT RETURNS COMING WEEKEND, I WILL ASK HIM
RAISE MATTER AGAIN WITH SHAWKAT, CITING LATEST INCIDENT.
AM ALSO ASKING ALUSNA MAKE PARALLEL APPROACH TO EGYPTIAN
NAVY, POINTING OUT POSSIBLE DAMAGE CAUSED TO AMERICAN
VESSEL BY THIS LATEST INCIDENT. IF NECESSARY, I WILL
TAKE UP SUBJECT WITH MINWAR GENERAL GAMASY. IT OUGHT
TO BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT SOME PROCEDURE WHEREBY LEGITI-
MATE EGYPTIAN DEFENSE CONCERNS IN ALEXANDRIA PORT ARE
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ADEQUATELY MET IN A MANNER WHERE AMERICAN SHIPPING IN
THE PORT IS NOT ENDANGERED. THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE
ALUSNA TO DISCUSS WITH EGYPTIAN NAVAL AUTHORITIES.

3. WISH MAKE SEVERAL POINTS ABOUT YOUR LATEST MESSAGE
(REFTEL A). FIRST, IN AN INCIDENT OF THIS SORT, WE NEED
MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION AS TO EXACTLY WHERE IN

ALEXANDRIA PORT THE UNDERWATER EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE,
AS WELL AS ANY ADDITIONAL DETAILS THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE.
IF WE HOPE TO PERSUADE EGYPTIANS ALTER THEIR PRACTICES,
WE MUST BE ABLE TO BE SPECIFIC RE HOW THESE PRACTICES
ARE ENDANGERING AMERICAN VESSELS. WE ALSO NEED SPECIFIC
INDICATION WHETHER DAMAGE HAS IN FACT BEEN CAUSED TO
SS JAMES MACHINERY AND PIPING AND, IF SO, EXTENT OF
THAT DAMAGE. SECOND, I SEE LITTLE PURPOSE IN SENDING
SUCH MESSAGE TO EVERY MILITARY COMMAND IN EUROPE AND
ELSEWHERE. THEY HAVE NOTHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOLUTION
OF PROBLEM. SECSTATE SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE INFORMED, BUT
THIS KIND OF THING IS A MATTER FOR THE EMBASSY AND CONGEN
TO WORK OUT.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 01-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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